

Sanctuary Advisory Council

Thursday, June 13, 2002
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Honolulu International Airport
Interisland Conference Center, 7th Floor

Final Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

SAC Members Present: Athline Clark, James Coon, William Friedl, Eric Gilman, Walter Haas, Isaac Harp, June Harrigan Lum, Louis Herman, Jack Laufer, Teresa Leicher, William Lennan, LCDR Dwight Mathers, Richard McCarty, Naomi McIntosh, Richard Poirier, John Reghi, Glenn Soma, Robert Smith, Reginald White

SAC Alternates Present: Sara Peck (for Sallie Beavers), Marc Lammers (for Paul Nachtigall)

Excused: Sallie Beavers, Elizabeth Corbin, Nancy Daschbach, Margaret Dupree, Patty Miller, Paul Nachtigall, Michael Stanton, Jeff Walters,

Absent: Greg Kaufman (for Michael Stanton), Cindy Knapman, Paul Nahoia Lucas, Jerry Norris,

Others Present:

HIHWNMS: Christine Brammer, Carol Carey, Amy Glester, Annelore Reisewitz, Jean Souza

STATE/DLNR: Liza Simon

NMFS Enforcement: Paul Newman

USCG: Stephanie Burkhart, Eric Kingman, CDR Michael Tosatto

PUBLIC: Clayton Brenton, David Hoffman, John VanDyke

Distributed Materials:

- Final agenda
- SAC Action Item Status Report
- Acting Sanctuary Manager's Report
- SAC Update on SURTASS LFA
- State Co-Manager's Report
- Conservation Subcommittee Report
- Research Subcommittee Report
- Honolulu County Report
- Kauai County Report
- Maui County Report
- Vessel Collisions Working Group Report
- Boater Outreach Program Working Group Report
- Memo from Jean Souza to SAC Naturalist Training Working Group
- Ideas for Discussion from Jeff Walters to SAC Naturalist Training Working Group
- SAC Resolution for Research and Rescue Coordinator David Matilla
- SAC Management Plan Update

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by SAC Chair James Coon at 10:20 a.m. (delay caused by parking problem at the airport). Mr. Coon announced that SAC USCG representative CDR Mike Tosatto has been reassigned to Guam and is being replaced by LCDR Dwight Mathers.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

MOTION: A motion was made to accept the minutes from the last meeting Motion carried

Public Forum

Mr. Coon asked the members of the public to introduce themselves and asked for public comments. John Van Dyke, UH Law School, requested permission to speak on the LFA issue following the Acting Manager's Report.

Reports and Updates

SAC Chair

Mr. Coon presented a sample design of a Sanctuary t-shirt to be ordered for SAC members and asked for comments on choice of shirt and design.

ACTION: The SAC recommended using the existing design t-shirt with a small banner on front, which reads, "Sanctuary Advisory Council Member."

Mr. Coon reviewed the status of the April SAC Meeting Action Items (see attachment 1). It was noted that SAC alternate Greg Kaufman is the lead on the item regarding a resolution to commend work of agencies involved with enforcement in the Sanctuary.

The Naturalist Training Working Group SAC members and Sanctuary staff met before this meeting to discuss next steps for the working group.

Mr. Coon announced that there would be a SAC Strategic Meeting planned for officers and subcommittee heads on July 25, 2002, in Maui.

Acting Sanctuary Manager's Report

Naomi McIntosh gave an overview of her report (see attachment 2) and announced that there are two new Sanctuary staff members, Amy Glester in the Oahu office and Rhonda Van Wingerden on Maui. She highlighted from her report that the National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) Web statistics showed 13,685 hits on the HIHWNMS website during the month of May and emphasized the importance of the Sanctuary's website as an outreach tool.

Ms. McIntosh also reported that she and Jeff Walters briefed the Hawaii Congressional delegation on Sanctuary activities in April. William Friedl asked how the meeting went. Ms. McIntosh replied that the congressional delegation seemed satisfied with our activities and upcoming public meetings for the draft revised management plan. The congressional delegation also asked about ideas on how to address community issues and public education for monk seals in Kauai. They also seemed supportive of the Sanctuary proposal to consider the inclusion of other species in the draft revised management plan.

Ms McIntosh also announced that the CD-ROM version of the International Marine Debris Conference Proceedings has been distributed to all conference participants. Copies of the CD-ROM were distributed to the SAC.

NMSP Director Dan Basta visited the HIHWNMS in May and announced preliminary plans for Allen Tom's return to Hawaii this fall. Mr. Tom is being assigned to perform as a regional coordinator for the Pacific Sanctuaries. Mr. Basta also toured potential office locations on Oahu. The Oahu Sanctuary office will need to relocate next year before the current lease expires. He visited the Kihei site and was briefed on the Kihei Facility Project. Mr. Basta also visited NELHA in Kona to explore opportunities for a Kona office for the Sanctuary. SAC member Bill Friedl was present during this visit. Mr. Basta indicated support to find funding for the Kona office and that it would be an add on to the base budget for the next fiscal year. Ms. McIntosh also accompanied Mr. Basta to a briefing with the Hawaii Congressional Delegation during his May visit.

Ms. McIntosh gave an update on SURTASS LFA (see attachment 3).

Mr. Van Dyke was invited to comment on SURTASS LFA. He stated that 180 dB in the water is equivalent to 119 dB on the land (similar to sitting in the front row of a hard rock concert). 85 dB can cause permanent harm to humans. 60 dB is the level of noise from a freeway. The testing would produce an extremely loud noise that would be continuous over long periods of time (up to 100 seconds and then repeated). No one has measured the impact on humpback whales above 150 dB in the water. NMFS is saying that 180 dB is OK. There are well-publicized strandings where the dB levels had been above 150 dB. Mr. Van Dyke stated that the Navy justification was...there are 224 non-allied subs in the oceans that they need to locate. Mr. Friedl added that there is a good explanation of the equivalent in the NPAL environmental statement. William Lennan asked, "how far out does the 180 dB extend?" Mr. Van Dyke replied that sound created by an array of boom boxes, when they come together, can be up to 240 dB. The Navy says that when they get to coastal areas it will be only 180 dB. This will be the loudest sound ever put in the ocean. There are known incidents caused by Navy sonar activity. All studies show that it has a negative effect on cetaceans. Teri Leicher asked, "What about dive sites?" Mr. Van Dyke replied the Navy says that at known dive sites they will keep it at 140 dB. June Harrigan asked, "Will those on surface also hear the sounds?" Dr. Lou Herman replied that the sound could only be heard if you were in the water directly above the sound source. Mr. Van Dyke stated that the Navy agreed to keep sound sources above 180 dB outside 12 nautical miles from land. Marc Lammers commented that 180 dB is the level of the humpback whale song and may be the reason for establishing the 180 dB threshold. Isaac Harp questioned the necessity of this technology since he had heard an admiral say they (Navy) already have this ability. Dr. Herman noted that Penguin Bank was being designated as an OBIA (offshore biologically important areas). Penguin Bank extends more than 12 nautical miles and is known to have a high density of humpback whales.

ACTION: Mr. Coon stated that SURTASS LFA will be placed on the agenda at the next SAC meeting since NMFS is planning to make a decision on the Navy's request for a LOA (letter of authorization) within a few weeks. Both the Conservation and Research subcommittees should review the issue and bring their findings to the next meeting. The SAC needs to stay on top of this issue.

Sanctuary Co-Manager's Report

SAC members were asked to refer to Dr. Walters' written report (see attachment 4), as he had to be excused to respond to a whale stranding. Ms. McIntosh announced

the first issue of the Sanctuary newsletter is now available. She asked that the SAC members review this first effort and if they have any comments to please get them to Amy Glester.

Sub-committee Reports

Conservation:

Conservation Committee Chair Eric Gilman noted that there are three action items for new business in his subcommittee report (see attachment 5)

Research:

Alternate Marc Lammers reported for Research Committee Chair Paul Nachtigall. He noted that email comments on three issues (Kona Blue Water Farms, David Matilla and the Management Plan) are contained in the committee report (see attachment 6). He also commented on a meeting held on May 17th to discuss potential impacts of proposed activities on resident spinner dolphins from the Kona Blue Water Farm. He reported that the meeting failed to reach a general consensus on potential impacts.

County Reports:

Honolulu County Representative William Friedl presented his report (see Attachment 7). He commented on the positive impact of the airport display by the student winners of the Sanctuary and KidScience slogan contest.

Kauai County Representative Walter Haas presented his report (see Attachment 8).

Maui County Representative Richard McCarty presented his report (see Attachment 9). He also passed around a binder of photos from the recent stranded beaked whale incident on Maui.

Working Group Reports

Vessel Working Group:

Chair William Friedl gave a written report from the SAC Vessel Collisions Working Group (see attachment 10). Dick Poirier pointed out that funding is needed for working groups to be effective.

Boater Outreach Group:

Chair Reg White gave a written report on the Boater Outreach Program (see attachment 11). He pointed out that we need something that will have impact on boaters. State now has Sanctuary funding for the development of a boater outreach program. Suggestions include a waterproof nautical chart with regulations; a zip lock bag with small flyers on regulations and using the existing NMFS Watchable Wildlife brochure. The group will work with Dr. Walters on the next steps.

Naturalist Training Group:

Chair Teri Leicher reported that the group held an informal organizational meeting today. Jean Souza provided a report informing the SAC that a mini grant was available to support coordination of program-wide Naturalist Training. (see attachment 12). Ms. Leicher stated that the group still needs to do research on existing programs. The group needs more involvement from the SAC—a sign up list was passed around. Mr. Poirier voiced a thank you to Ms. Souza and Ms. Leicher for their work. He would like to see this working group meet at the same time as the SAC chairs meeting.

SAC Chair Presentation

The SAC formally acknowledged and thanked USCG representative CDR Mike Tosatto for his contributions to the council since its inception.

Management Plan Review Update

Ms. McIntosh distributed copies of the final draft and stated that the SAC needs to complete their review of the document by June 18. The plan timeline and summary of public meetings were reviewed along with a summary of changes made from draft to final revised plan (see attachment 15). A new section has been added starting on page 138 to include a response to comments from the public meetings. The final draft now has cost estimates for activities and are summarized before each of the action plans. Page 31 has a caveat to clarify the purpose of including cost estimates.

The process to look at the inclusion of new species had been designated to begin in year 2005 and is now starting in 2004. Actually efforts will begin before and will include meeting with State and Federal agencies. Public scoping is anticipated to begin in 2004.

Mr. Gilman pointed out that the Conservation Committee comments from the April meeting were not incorporated into the comments section.

Anne Reizewitz will work to incorporate the SAC's comments in the final draft of the management plan.

NOAA Fisheries Enforcement Presentation:

NOAA Fisheries Enforcement Representative John Reghi thanked the SAC for their cooperation during the past whale season. He gave an overview of the past season's enforcement activities based on Officer Paul Newman's written report. Staff involved this year on Maui included Victor Honda, Paul Newman and Rick Hawkins from January through mid-April. They received 71 complaints—60 directly related to whales, 11 to other protected species. Categories included: Vessels—12 kayaks, 3 skiffs, 1 water ski, 14 privately-owned motor boats, 2 jet ski, 16 whale charters and 4 aircraft violations. There was one written warning with no cases pending prosecution. The increase in kayak interactions with whales and dolphins appear to be the biggest problem. Staff patrolled known areas of kayakers with dockside patrols, including monitoring weekend activities. Coast Guard assisted by providing airborne/water-based platforms. Researchers were interviewed and vessels were boarded for inspections during on-water time. The Maui site had a probationer doing community service—Officer Hawkins worked with this individual to talk to others about following the approach regulations. Whale strikes, collisions: one documented collision, no legal action was taken. Mr. Reghi also talked about the need to increase NOAA Fisheries Enforcement presence on the water. There is a joint agreement with State coming to fruition. NOAA Fisheries Enforcement will be funding DOCARE presence next year. Mr. Reghi pointed to the need to increase public education. More aircraft violations associated with an air event— NOAA Fisheries Enforcement sent a letter to all participants.

Other areas of NOAA Fisheries Enforcement involvement include:

American Samoa: establishing a surveillance project by installing a remote camera in the bay. This will be a pilot project. NOAA Fisheries Enforcement will report back to the SAC on the results.

Increase in illegal trade of whale ivory. This is an ongoing problem. NOAA Fisheries Enforcement cannot speak openly about the case because legal actions are still pending.

Shark feeding: On-going discussions with DOCARE regarding strategies to address this issue.

Wild dolphin/human interaction issue: A public meeting was held on the Big Island. NOAA Fisheries Enforcement is working with DOCARE on addressing the issue of swimming with dolphins.

Outreach activities including translating brochures into foreign languages. DOCARE is also involved in this effort.

Comments from SAC members: Dr. Herman commented on the need to closely monitor commercial operations that are making a business out of swimming with dolphins. Because there are no established approach limits, these activities have a higher potential to affect the behavior of these animals and for violations of the MMPA to occur. Public comment period on the NMFS proposed regulations to address this issue has closed. Mr. Lammers stated the need to apply the same standard to whale watching boats as to dolphin watchers. Mr. White questioned what should the appropriate boat speed be when operating around these animals. Mr. Reghi replied that NMFS is still looking at this issue. Ms. Harrigan questioned how NOAA deals with cases involving water quality impacts to humpback whales. Mr. Reghi stated that they cannot have a legal take of animals by water pollution. CDR Tosatto stated that DOCARE needs to be out on the water more frequently. Mr. Reghi replied that DOCARE will be deputized by NOAA to enforce certain federal laws and will have jurisdiction outside the State's three-mile limit. Athline Clark stated one problem is that DOCARE doesn't write the regulations they enforce. NMFS needs to work with those departments when they are developing regulations. DOCARE also needs access to training. Mr. Reghi stated federal training will be made available. A statement was made that other countries have a "retreat" regulation where it is illegal if you do not retreat if an animal approaches you. We need to do more education so that we won't have to rely on this type of regulation.

Mr. Herman asked if the Coast Guard will cut back their support to enforcement due to increase in Homeland Security. CDR Tosatto replied that the Coast Guard policy is to respond, "when appropriate" – and the Coast Guard always considered whale season appropriate. CDR Tosatto also stated his desire to see the Coast Guard auxiliary involvement grow. Overall there have been some cut back of hours but the Coast Guard has been able to continue to be involved.

Unfinished Business

SAC draft resolution-commending work of agencies involved with enforcement in the Sanctuary. Action postponed to allow more time for the Conservation Committee to work on a draft.

Establish Sanctuary guidelines on human activities. Mr. Gilman will bring this up under New Business.

SAC draft resolution commending the work of David Mattila.
(see attachment 14)

A motion was made to adopt the resolution. Motion passed.

New Business

A. Statewide Comprehensive Humpback Whale Monitoring Program

MOTION: SAC recommend that the Sanctuary establish a permanent, ongoing humpback whale monitoring program to provide precise information on quantitative status and trends in whale abundance, stock structure, and distribution.

Mr. Coon pointed out the need to have consensus from the SAC to support the need for the Sanctuary to be a clearing house/repository of research information. Mr. Gilman also questioned whether there is a need for the Sanctuary to develop a gap analysis that identifies research and monitoring needs, and the role of the SAC and the Sanctuary in helping to address those needs. Mark Lammers commented that researchers are familiar with how to locate research references and maybe this information is not as readily available to the non-research community. The SAC offered the following ideas:

- The Sanctuary should get copies of the annual reports from the State DLNR and NMFS that permitted researchers are required to complete.
- The Sanctuary should do an assessment of annually planned research: what's being done and what needs to be done.
- Sanctuary is working on a human use study, need to also do a threat study so that the information can be overlaid.
- The Sanctuary should coordinate an effort to request all existing data from researchers and GIS this information. Need to look at what CZM is currently doing and see if there is some opportunity to collaborate.
- Gap Analysis is already being done for other resources (i.e. coral reefs), need to review existing efforts
- Need to develop a list of research questions that are needed to improve management of the Sanctuary.
- Need to look at other funding for humpback whale projects that have established parameters.

Dr. Herman offered an amendment to refer this pending motion to the Research and Conservation committees for a joint meeting to further discuss this issue.

PRIVILEGED MOTION: Refer pending motion to the Research Committee in collaboration with the Conservation Committee and develop an action item for the SAC to consider. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

B. Threat Assessment Paper

MOTION: The Conservation Committee recommends that the Sanctuary expedite implementing the development of a working paper on threats to humpback whales and their habitat in Sanctuary waters. Motion carried.

C. National Vessel Strike Workshop

MOTION: The Conservation Committee recommends that the Sanctuary managers follow up recent discussions with Dan Basta and request national-level funding from the Sanctuary System to convene a national vessel strike workshop in Hawaii in fiscal year 2003. Motion carried.

D. Threat Assessment Workshop

MOTION: The Conservation Committee requests that the Sanctuary manager's request funding for the HIHWNMS for fiscal year 2003 to broaden the scope of the workshop to a comprehensive threat assessment, to identify priority threats to whales while in the Hawaii Sanctuary waters. Motion carried.

E. KITV Paradise Adventures Special

ACTION: Ms. McIntosh will have the Sanctuary order VCR tapes of the KITV Paradise Adventures Special on humpback whales for each SAC member. This tape was shown during the lunch break of the SAC meeting held today.

F. CDR Tosatto Resolution

MOTION: A resolution thanking CDR Mike Tosatto for his dedicated service to the SAC as the representative for the USCG was presented for the SAC to review and approve. Motion carried.

G. 2002 SAC Selection (see attachment 16)

Ms. McIntosh discussed a new schedule for selection process. The application process announced to the public in June. Applications will be accepted until August 15, 2002, and selections will be made by September 30, 2002. New SAC members to start by the November 14, 2002 meeting

She asked the SAC to form a Selection Committee. A sign up sheet was distributed. Ms. McIntosh reminded the members that they need to reapply if their seat is up. There are nine seats, including alternates, up for re-selection. The seats are Business/Commerce, Citizen-at-Large, Commercial Shipping, Conservation, Fishing, Native Hawaiian, Ocean Recreation, Tourism and Whale Watching.

Public Forum

No comments.

Announcements

The next SAC meeting will be held September 9, 2002.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

ATTACHMENT 1

JUNE 2002 SAC MEETING ACTION ITEMS

Status Report

ACTION: Sanctuary Acting Manager is requested to find out why there is no section on approach regulations on the Sanctuary website and nothing specific on the endangered species regulations.

STATUS: The Sanctuary publication "Hawaii's Marine Protected Species: A Handbook for Ocean Users" is posted in pdf format on the Sanctuary website. *The handbook contains information on the approach regulations. Sanctuary Staff will continue to investigate opportunities for the website to ensure this information is more visible.*

ACTION: The SAC draft resolution to commend work of agencies involved with enforcement in the Sanctuary.

STATUS: Sanctuary provided information on what the enforcement agencies cover during the whale season to the Conservation Subcommittee. *The subcommittee will continue to work on the draft.*

ACTION: Draft Revised Management Plan comments from Research Subcommittee

STATUS: On the comment regarding section RM-2 Activity, the committee will re-address this issue and resubmit comments to the SAC for approval by the Chair.

ACTION: Defer the 2002 SAC Selections until September.

STATUS: Applications will be sent out in June and after selection process, it is anticipated that the new members will be present at the November meeting.

Additional SAC related activities will be addressed in New Business

ACTION: Naturalist Training Working Group formed with SAC members (Teresa Leicher, Dick Poirier, Walter Haas, and Greg Kaufman); non-SAC: (Jean Souza (HIHWNMS), Merle Kaufman and Dwayne Meadows (Pacific Whale Foundation), and Hannah Bernard (Maui Ocean Center).

STATUS: SAC members and Sanctuary staff met today to discuss the working groups' next steps.

ACTION: SAC to prepare a resolution, subject to review and approval by the Chair, commending the work of David Mattila during this past whale season.

STATUS: Letter drafted.

ACTION: SAC adopted the House Testimony letter as written with the following revisions, subject to review and approval by the Chair: 1) Include a brief introduction on the SAC, 2) Use SAC letterhead, 3) Correct typographical errors, 4) Remove sentence on population numbers.

STATUS: Letter drafted, signed and sent.

Copies of the resolution are available and have been provided as meeting handouts.

ACTION: The Conservation Subcommittee will look into the need for a standard policy regarding aquaculture/mariculture in sanctuary waters—perhaps addressing zoning plans to designate no development areas within the Sanctuary where humpbacks are most abundant.

STATUS: *Eric Gilman will address this topic in the Conservation Committee Report*

ATTACHMENT 2

Acting Sanctuary Manager Report

June 13, 2002

National Marine Sanctuary Program Updates

- April 24th, NOAA begins exploration in its five West Coast Marine Sanctuaries on a 60 day Sanctuary quest. For more information visit: <http://www.oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/explorations/02quest/sanctuaryquest.html>
- May 17th, Dan Basta announced selections for the National Marine Sanctuary program (NMSP) catalyst mini-grants program. Education coordinators throughout the NMSP submitted proposals for funding consideration. Three proposals were chosen for funding, they include Sanctuary Interpreter/Naturalist Certification Program, West Coast Sanctuary Student Monitoring Network, and Whaling to Watching. The Hawaii Sanctuary staff will be involved in the Sanctuary Interpreter/Naturalist Certification Program and the Whaling to Watching program efforts.
- June 3rd to June 8th Oceans Week on Capitol Hill. On June 4th, the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation hosted a day themed "Creating an Ocean Literate Society" which included presentations and discussions on ocean education programs and future strategies for increasing ocean literacy. Patty Miller, SAC Education Chair was invited to participate in the day's events.

HIHWNMS Updates

General Announcements

- Rhonda VanWingerden has been contracted to assist with education and outreach efforts for the Maui Office. Rhonda's contract position will provide assistance to the Maui Office and allowing additional time for Claire Cappelle to work on the Kihei Facilities project. Rhonda started with the Sanctuary on May 23rd.
- May 2002, NMSP Web Statistics shows that for the month of May a total of 13,685 pages on the HIHWNMS Website were viewed.

April 2002

- The "45 ton talk" series continues at the Education Center every Tuesday morning. These regularly scheduled talk story sessions focus on humpback whales, the Sanctuary System and other related marine resources.
- On April 9, the Sanctuary site had its last school trip on the Windjammer for the Whale Discovery 2002 program. 21 students and 2 teachers from Baldwin High attended.
- Meetings were held on Oahu to develop a poster on Native Hawaiian Cultural uses in conjunction with the State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources and Office of Planning.
- On Tuesday, April 9th, the Maui site hosted their monthly lecture series with a presentation by Samantha Whitcraft, Ocean Resource Manager of the Kahoolawe Island Reserve Commission. She discussed the proposed management regime of incorporating tradition Native Hawaiian practices with Western-style management tools.
- 90-3rd graders visited the Maui site on April 19th. The students were from the Kula Elementary School. They spent the morning learning about humpback whales, the sanctuary, turtles and the Hawaiian fishpond that is located in front of the sanctuary property.
- Oahu Sanctuary staff accompanied Patty Miller to Laura Fukumoto's 5th grade class at Aliamanu Elementary School to build whale models. The models will be displayed in the inter-island airport terminal along with the posters that the students created when they won the Sanctuary slogan contest with their winning slogan "See a Tail...Save the Whale".
- Staff attended the 10th annual Molokai Earth Day Festival on April 19th in Kaunakakai. Before the event, staff spent a delightful morning with the students of Kamehameha Preschool on Molokai teaching the students about humpback whales.
- Naomi McIntosh and Jeffrey Walters briefed the Hawaii Congressional delegation on April 17, 2002. They provided an update on the HIHWNMS program activities and Management Plan Review Process. Representatives from Senator Inouye's office, Senator Akaka's office, Representative Abercrombie's office, and Representative Patsy Mink's office were in attendance.
- The CD-ROM version of the International Marine Debris Conference Proceedings was distributed to all conference participants.
- On April 23rd, Maui Sanctuary staff responded to a report of a stranded Blainsville Beaked Whale. The whale initially beached itself alive and died a short time later. A necropsy was conducted at the Maui office.
- On April 24th, Sanctuary staff traveled to the Big Island to attend Hilo Earth Day. 2-3,000 students and adults attended this one-day event; The Hilo Earth Day was held at the University of Hawaii at Hilo campus. The Sanctuary hosted an information booth.
- On April 26, Sanctuary staff attended Hickam Earth Day, which was held at Foster's Point on Hickam Air Force Base. Students from Hickam Elementary and

Nimitz Elementary were invited to attend this annual event. The Sanctuary hosted an information booth.

- On April 27th, a dead pygmy sperm whale was discovered on Oneuli beach in Makena.

May 2002

- The “45 ton talk” series continues at the Education Center every Tuesday morning. These regularly scheduled talk story sessions focus on humpback whales, the Sanctuary System and other related marine resources.
- On Sunday, May 5th, Sanctuary staff attended the annual E Malama I Ke Kai celebration, which is sponsored by the Hawaiian immersion school, Punana Leo. This year the event was held at Bishop Museum. The Sanctuary hosted a booth and provided an educational activity for the children.
- On May 13th, a staff meeting was held with the staff of the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary, the Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary, the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve, and Dan Basta, director of the National Marine Sanctuary System. Dan provided an update on activities of the National Marine Sanctuary Program and announced preliminary plans for Allen Tom when he returns to Hawaii in September. Dan plans to assign Allen to perform a regional coordination function for the Pacific Sanctuaries.
- On May 13th, Naomi McIntosh accompanied Dan Basta to a briefing for the Hawaii Congressional Delegation.
- On May 13th, the Oahu staff meeting participated in a meeting with Vice Admiral Lautenbacher and other NOAA employees working in Honolulu.
- On May 13th and 14th, the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy met in Honolulu where they heard testimony from various parties. Vice Admiral Lautenbacher provided testimony to the commission on Monday, May 13, SAC Chair Jim Coon and SAC Alternate Jon Van Dyke were also invited to testify.
- On May 14th, the Sanctuary co-hosted a reception for the Ocean Commission at the Diamond Head Lighthouse.
- On May 17th, Vice Admiral Lautenbacher visited the Sanctuary headquarters in Kihei, Maui. He was given a tour of the site and a briefing on the Sanctuary and the adjacent fishpond. He also met with SAC Officers and Subcommittee Chairs over brunch.
- On May 17th, Sanctuary interns Kristina Elson and Carey Morishige, graduated from the Marine Option Program at the University of Hawaii. They each received a certificate in Marine Mammal Conservation Education for their work with the Sanctuary program.
- May 2002, Christine Brammer will begin taking classes to acquire additional skills for website management. The classes will help to prepare Christine to take over the upkeep of the Sanctuary’s website.
- On May 14th, the Maui headquarters site hosted a lecture on Coral Reefs by Eric Brown as part of the Sanctuary lecture series. Eric’s presentation focused on whether we should celebrate coral reefs or give up on them.
- Rosia Tavita, Education Coordinator for the Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary, visited the Sanctuary and met with staff members to learn about the Sanctuary’s education program. She visited with staff from three Sanctuary offices (O’ahu, Kaua’i and Maui), as well as staff from the Waikiki Aquarium and Patty Miller from the Department of Education’s KidScience Teleschool Program.
- On Wednesday, May 29th, Dan Basta visited office locations on Oahu. The Oahu Sanctuary office may need to relocate its offices sometime within the next year before its current lease expires.
- On Wednesday, May 29th, Dan Basta visited the Kihei site. He met with staff and volunteers and was also briefed on the Kihei Facility Project.

- On May 30th, Dan Basta visited NELHA in Kona to explore opportunities for a Kona office for the Sanctuary.
- On May 30th, a cultural workshop entitled "It's Kaukau Time!" was held at the Maui Sanctuary site. The workshop was led by Joylynn Oliveira, Native Hawaiian Cultural Educator for the Sanctuary. Volunteers and staff of the Sanctuary as well as members of the Fishpond Association were invited to share cultural seafood recipes. The object of the workshop was to integrate how the local cultures of Hawai'i make use of the Sanctuary's resources in their everyday life. Eight people attended and recipes included tuna salad, mahimahi laulau, poke, lomilomi salmon, sushi and a variety of other dishes made from seaweed found right in front of the Sanctuary headquarters.
- On May 31st Jean Souza consulted with Lihue Airport manager about possibilities of a Sanctuary facility in the vicinity.
- On May 31st the king and queen of Maui's Aloha Week Court visited the Maui site in full attire for a photo shoot using the fishpond and native plants as the background.
- The Sanctuary hosted an information and activity booth at the Easter Seals Fishing Tournament weigh-in. Jean Souza, Kaua'i Sanctuary Liaison told stories about the marine environment to 30-40 children and adults as they created original ocean pictures at the Sanctuary booth. Comments and questions about the Sanctuary from the fishermen in attendance were also received. Two Sanctuary volunteers assisted at this annual community event.

June 2002

- Note: Updates for June will be provided at the June 13th SAC meeting.

Facilities Planning for Maui Office

- On Tuesday, May 7th, the Maui site hosted a meeting to complete the scrubbing process for the proposed multi-purpose building for the Kihei site
- On Thursday, May 23rd, Alan Neuschatz, Chief Financial Officer for the National Ocean Service visited the Kihei site for a briefing on the Kihei Facility Project.
- On Wednesday, May 29th, Dan Basta, Director of the National Marine Sanctuary Program visited the Kihei site for a briefing on the Kihei Facility Project.

Management Plan

- A federal register notice announcing two additional public meetings for Lanai and Molokai was published on April 11, 2002.
- Management plan public review meetings were held during May on the islands of Oahu, Maui, Kauai, Molokai, Lanai, and on the Big Island in Kona and Hilo.
- Management plan coordinator, Annie Reisewitz worked hard to synthesize the public comments to prepare for her trip to Silver Spring to work on revisions.
- Management plan coordinator, Annie Reisewitz traveled to Silver Spring to work on the revisions to the Management Plan.

Sanctuary Media Coverage

April 2002

- | | |
|----|---|
| 24 | "Rare whale dies after beaching on Maui", HNL Advertiser |
| 24 | "Rare Blainville's beaked whale dies off Kamaole", Maui News |
| 11 | "Whale Sanctuary plans studies on noise, boat impacts", Maui News |
| 9 | "Volunteers gather for a fun day of counting whales", HNL Star Bulletin |

May 2002

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| 19 | "NOAA Chief lauds Maui Programs", Maui News |
| 12 | "Hawaii's Humpbacks", Radio Talk show with Jane Pascual on KRTR Radio, Joe Mobley, Jeff Walters and Naomi McIntosh provided interviews. |

- 6 "Focus groups help to identify major threats to whales", Maui News
3 "Whale Sanctuary plans draw criticism over care", HNL Star Bulletin

ATTACHMENT 3

SAC Update on SURTASS LFA

6/13/02

According, to Ken Hollingshead, NOAA Fisheries, the final determination on whether or not to issue regulations and Letters of Authorization to the Navy for taking marine mammals by harassment incidental to the operation of SURTASS LFA Sonar is currently under review by the Department of Commerce.

It is anticipated that a final decision by Bill Hogarth is unlikely for a few more weeks. Additional information and updated information will be posted on on the NOAA Fisheries Protected Resources Acoustics Program Home Page at:

http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/prot_res/PR2/Acoustics_Program/acoustics.html

Talking Point for Naomi

- The SAC Conservation Subcommittee discussed whether legislation that was being discussed in Congress to exempt military activities from having to comply with Environmental permit requirements would have an impact on project proposals such as LFA. As far as we could determine the only legislation that mentions this issue is in House Bill 4546 (Title III, Subtitle 3; page 58) under Military Readiness and the Conservation of Protected Species.
- For those SAC members who would like to see a copy of the bill, we do have an electronic version that we can forward to you. I also have copies of correspondence that Jeff Walters provided that relate to the LFA issue. SAC members who are interested in this information should see Amy to request it.

ATTACHMENT 4

MEMORANDUM

Update from the Sanctuary Co-Manager for the period April 2, 2002 through June 5, 2002
(Prepared for the June 13, 2002 Council meeting)

Management Plan Review

Six public meetings on 5 islands yielded numerous comments and suggestions for improving the draft revised Sanctuary management plan and the Sanctuary program in general. By the time the Council meets on June 13, the draft revised plan will have been revised again to respond to public comments. Council input on this final version of the plan is requested.

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs has again expressed its support of the Sanctuary's reauthorization. In a May 17, 2002 letter to Governor Cayetano, OHA Board of Trustees Chairperson Haunani Apoliona informed the Governor of OHA's continued support for the Sanctuary and its education and cultural programs in particular (a copy of Trustee Apoliona's letter is included in your meeting materials packet). Thanks go to SAC member Jerry Norris for facilitating this important endorsement.

Education and Outreach – State Administered Projects

The first issue of the Sanctuary's new newsletter, *Ka Leo O Ke Kohol* ("The voice of the whale"), is expected to be released prior to the June 13 Council meeting. Thanks go to Council members who have helped with information and reviews. Public Outreach Coordinator, Liza Simon and I look forward to the Council's continued assistance with this new education and outreach product.

A poster featuring ocean-related values and practices of Native Hawaiian continues to be developed in close coordination with *kupuna* and practitioners. Under the direction of Hawaiian Cultural Educator, Joylynn Oliveira, a design is being developed that will depict the various ocean and coastal zones as delineated in Hawaiian culture and the uses and practices associated with each zone. A sketch of the proposed design and layout should be available for review soon. Another poster depicting contemporary uses of the Sanctuary is currently "on hold" until the Native Hawaiian poster is nearer completion. The goal is to have 2 posters (1 on traditional Hawaiian uses, and 1 on contemporary uses) that are complementary in terms of look and information presented.

A Sanctuary Uses Study is nearing completion. The study, conducted by the UH Marine Options Program, presents results of surveys of commercial and non-commercial uses of Sanctuary waters. Uses listed and described include whale watching, SCUBA diving, shipping and fishing. A draft version of the report is expected to be distributed for your review at the June 13 Council meeting.

Whale Strandings

Sanctuary staff and volunteers, NOAA Fisheries veterinarians, DLNR staff (DAR and DOCARE), Maui County Fire and Aquatic Safety personnel all performed above and beyond the call of duty in responding to a beached Blainville's beaked whale in Kihei on April 23, 2002. The whale was alive when first spotted at around 8:00 AM, but expired shortly thereafter. Through the concerted efforts of all involved, the 15 ft, 1 ton carcass was safely and efficiently moved from the crowded beach, and an "all nighter" necropsy was performed at Sanctuary Headquarters. The samples taken from this rarely encountered animal will be studied by a number of researchers throughout the country, and the entire head was preserved to be used during an upcoming training for Hawaii veterinarians of the difficult technique of cetacean ear removal. Also essential to the successful response were the heavy equipment and manpower donated by Goodfellow Brothers and Betsill Brothers construction companies. After being blessed by Kahu Charlie Maxwell, the remains of the whale were disposed of at sea about 5 miles off south Maui the following morning.

On April 27, 2002, a pygmy sperm whale stranded dead in Makena. Maui-based DLNR staff (DAR and DOCARE), assisted by Pacific Whale Foundation staff, worked to move the carcass off the beach and to the DLNR base yard in Kahului. Upon examination by NOAA Fisheries veterinarians, the carcass was deemed too badly decomposed to conduct a necropsy. Morphological data were gathered and the carcass was disposed of at the Maui County Landfill the next morning.

Other Activities

- 1) 4/4/02 – Met with Linda Parker of Representative Abercrombie's office regarding state marine resources management and conservation issues.
- 2) 4/10/02 – Attended public meeting for Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve in Kaneohe.
- 3) 4/11/02 - Attended seminar at UH Dept of Urban and Regional Planning regarding use of GIS in documenting Native Hawaiian practices and values. Also attended meeting at State Office of Planning regarding poster depicted ocean-related Hawaiian uses.

- 4) 4/15-16/02 – Gave presentation of state activities and priorities and represented DLNR at the meeting of the Marine Mammal Commission's Monk Seal Recovery Program Review Panel.
- 5) 4/17/02 – Accompanied Naomi McIntosh in briefing Hawaii-based Congressional staff on status of management plan review.
- 6) 4/26/02 – Met with Margaret Dupree, David Nichols and Dr. Bob Braun of NOAA Fisheries to debrief Blaineville's stranding incident.
- 7) 4/30/02 – Attended videoconference meeting of SAC Conservation Subcommittee re draft revised management plan.
- 8) 5/1/02 – Assisted with public meeting on Oahu re draft revised management plan.
- 9) 5/2/02 - Assisted with public meeting on Maui re draft revised management plan.
- 10) 5/3/02 - Assisted with public meeting on Kauai re draft revised management plan.
- 11) 5/6/02 – Was interviewed for Jane Pascual's KCCN radio talk show with Naomi McIntosh and Dr. Joe Mobley.
- 12) 5/8/02 - Assisted with public meeting in Kona re draft revised management plan.
- 13) 5/9/02 - Assisted with public meeting in Hilo re draft revised management plan.
- 14) 5/10/02 – Attended inter-agency meeting in Lihue re Poipu monk seal coordination.
- 15) 5/13/02 – Attended videoconference meeting with Sanctuary staff and Dan Basta, NMSP Director.
- 16) 5/13-14/02 – Co-Manager and Public Outreach Coordinator attended Public Meeting of the U.S. Ocean Commission.
- 17) 5/17/02 – Accompanied Undersecretary Admiral Conrad Lautenbacher during visit to Maui Headquarters.
- 18) 5/21/02 - Assisted with public meeting on Lanai re draft revised management plan.
- 19) 5/22/02 - Assisted with public meeting on Molokai re draft revised management plan.
- 20) 5/28/02 – Attended videoconference meeting of SAC Conservation Subcommittee.
- 21) 5/29/02 – Attended meeting with Dan Basta re Maui facilities at Maui Headquarters.

cc: Gilbert S. Coloma-Agaran, DLNR Chairperson
 William S. Devick, DLNR-DAR Administrator
 Naomi McIntosh, Acting Sanctuary Manager

ATTACHMENT 5

The Conservation Standing Committee met on 28 May 2002. The following people attended:

Eric Gilman, Conservation Committee Chair
 Walter Haas, Kauai County
 Greg Kaufman, Tourism Alternate
 Eric Kingma, U.S. Coast Guard
 Dwight Mathers, U.S. Coast Guard
 Richard Poirier, DBEDT Office of Planning
 CDR Mike Tosatto, U.S. Coast Guard
 Jon VanDyke, Conservation Alternate
 Reginald White, Whale Watching

Amy Glester, Sanctuary SAC Coordinator
Naomi McIntosh, Federal Sanctuary Manager
Jeff Walters, Hawaii State Sanctuary Manager
Christine Brammer, Sanctuary staff--Oahu
Jean Souza, Sanctuary Kauai Liaison
Liza Simon, Hawaii State Sanctuary Public Outreach Coordinator

ACTION ITEMS

1. Statewide Comprehensive Humpback Whale Monitoring Program: Identified by the members of the Conservation Standing Committee as the highest research priority, we request that the SAC recommend that the Sanctuary establish a permanent, ongoing humpback whale monitoring program to provide precise information on quantitative status and trends in whale abundance, stock structure, and distribution. This could be collected, for instance, through statewide aerial and boat-based surveys during each year's breeding season.

Despite years of research, there still remain numerous critical information gaps on humpback whales in Hawaii. For instance, it is not known whether whale watching, research, operation of thrill craft, coastal development, and other human activities are associated with whales altering their distribution or habitat use patterns in ways that decrease survival and recruitment. Information resulting from this proposed monitoring program is needed to assess the significance of threats to whales, identify areas and types of habitat that are most critical for whale survival, and provide fundamental information needed for developing a scientifically based strategic statewide management plan. Eventually, the proposed monitoring program would also collect information on the levels and trends of different types of activities in and adjacent to areas seasonally inhabited by whales in Hawaii to infer changes in abundance and distribution.

2. Threat Assessment: The Conservation Standing Committee commends the Sanctuary managers for allocating \$50,000 during fiscal year 2002 to develop a working paper on threats to humpback whales and their habitat in Sanctuary waters. The Committee recommends that the Sanctuary expedite implementing this project. We further recommend that the Sanctuary managers follow-up recent discussions with Dan Basta and request national-level funding from the Sanctuary System to convene a national vessel strike workshop in Hawaii in fiscal year 2003. Furthermore, we request that the Sanctuary managers request funding for the Hawaii humpback whale sanctuary for fiscal year 2003 to broaden the scope of the workshop to a comprehensive threat assessment, to identify priority threats to whales while in the Hawaii sanctuary waters.

Assessing natural and anthropogenic threats to humpback whales and their habitat in Hawaii waters, identifying how each threat is currently being addressed, and identifying if managers need to take additional intervention measures to adequately abate each threat, enables managers to prioritize short and long-term objectives and actions, develop an effective strategic action plan, and meet the goal of the Sanctuary. Threat identification can include both broad and chronic threats, such as gradual degradation of water quality from point and non-point sources of pollution, chronic acoustic pollution and alteration of ambient noise levels, and human disturbance from vessel approaches, to more specific and acute problems, such as large oil spills, or loss of habitat from a new mariculture facility. Categorizing threats as active versus future, by severity, and identifying which coastal and marine environments are threatened may aid with developing a strategic plan to address critical threats. The threat assessment would also investigate the cumulative effects of activities that adversely affect whales, such as the cumulative loss of habitat from individual mariculture projects, and attempt to identify a threshold above which adverse population-level impacts to humpback whales would result. The threat assessment would further identify priority research, and would evaluate

the existing management framework and identify needed improvements in the management structure to address priority threats.

After completing this threat assessment, the Sanctuary would then implement necessary management interventions to address identified priority threats. This might require the Sanctuary to promulgate independent Sanctuary regulations to address threats not addressed under other agency's rules, for example, to manage the threat of collisions between whales and high-speed marine vessels in Sanctuary waters.

3. Farewell and Si Yu'us Ma'ase to CDR Mike Tosatto: The Conservation Committee requests the SAC adopt a Resolution thanking Commander Mike Tosatto for his years of valuable contribution to the SAC. Mike will be leaving for a new post on Guam in the near future.

DISCUSSION

- 1. Low Frequency Active Sonar:** The Conservation Committee requested current information from the Sanctuary managers on the Navy's planned Surveillance Towed Array Sensor System Low Frequency Active Sonar. On 30 May 2001, the SAC submitted comments to NMFS on the Federal Register Notice for the taking of marine mammals incidental to the Navy's planned activity, stating that the Navy should prevent LFA at any level from penetrating waters within 12 nm of the Hawaii coastline. The Conservation Committee is concerned that the Navy's currently planned operations may transmit LFA within 100 fathoms around Hawaii. Naomi agreed to provide an update on the Navy's planned project to the SAC at the June meeting, and to review NOAA's recommendations to the Navy, which were subsequently adopted by the Navy.
- 2. Ahi Nui Tuna Farming Co.** A new mariculture facility is being proposed on Hawaii. A draft Environmental Assessment is expected to be released this June. Clayton Brenton, General Manager, is interested to meet with the SAC.
- 3. Oceanit remote sensing:** Oceanit has applied for a Coastal Consistency Determination from the Hawaii Coastal Zone Management Program for a proposed project to collect oceanographic data to validate results of remote sensing data, which is being collected to detect deep ocean disturbance by analyzing sea surface signature from multi-spectral satellite data. Oceanit plans to collect the oceanographic data from Mamala Bay, near Sand Island in Honolulu, using in situ instruments to measure waves, temperature, conductivity, sensor depth, and current. Oceanit will use an Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler and an acoustic modem. The current profiler has a frequency of 500,000 Hz and produces 190 dB. The acoustic modem has a frequency of 9,000 to 30,000 Hz at 180-190 dB. Jeff Walters has requested comments on potential adverse effects from the proposed activities on humpback whales.

ATTACHMENT 6

Research Committee Report

June 13, 2002

I. The Sanctuary Advisory Council Research Committee conducted an email discussion regarding primarily three issues. These included:

1. The proposed plan by Kona Blue Water Farms' to establish a fish aquaculture facility off Keahole Point, Kona, Hawaii within the Sanctuary.
2. Dave Matilla's contract renewal as the Sanctuary's Research Coordinator.
3. Further comments on the Sanctuary's Management Plan.

Committee members were asked to respond to questions regarding each topic. The questions and a summary of the responses are presented below:

1. Kona Blue Water Farms: "Do you think that the fish pens will negatively affect the whales? Should we draft a letter of concern to the Farms for presentation to the SAC?"
 - a. Some members expressed concern that there could be an impact. Specifically, questions were raised about the anchoring/mooring system. It was suggested that keeping the "legs" taught rather than loose would alleviate concerns about possible entanglement. The question was also raised about whether the proposed facility could not be moved south of Captain Cook Bay where whale densities are lower than in the Keahole Point area.
 - b. Bill Friedl suggested that this case does not really present a "research" issue for the SAC. Rather that the SAC should monitor the progress of the project and ensure compliance with the stipulation of "no impact".
2. Dave Matilla's contract renewal: "Do we generally feel that he did a good job and should we encourage the Sanctuary to attempt to rehire him?"
 - a. The comment was made that the Sanctuary Management Plan calls for a full-time research coordinator position and therefore the position should be created, funded and filled ASAP.
 - b. Respondents indicated that they were pleased with Dave Matilla's work. Lou Herman described Dave's involvement, rapid response, and agency contacts as invaluable during the crisis incidents involving abandoned humpback whale calves this past season. The broad consensus was that the sanctuary should take steps to rehire him.
3. Sanctuary Management Plan: "Does anyone have any further comment on the input that we provided?"
 - a. Bill Friedl suggested that the SAC needs to reiterate to the Sanctuary Office that adequate funding must be provided to execute the management plan as agreed. This should translate to a Big Island "presence" and full-time Research and Education/Outreach Administrators.
 - b. Lou Herman echoed the sentiment that more funding should be devoted to research and added that if research goals are to be prioritized, characterizing the habitat of whales is not as important as characterizing the whales themselves.
 - c. Greg Kaufman requested that the Research Committee be given copies of the public comments made on the Management Plan to review.
4. Other comments made:

Greg Kaufman expressed a desire to learn more about the shark chumming/swimming activities presented by Jeff Walters at the last SAC meeting, perhaps by inviting the purveyors to give a presentation. He further indicated concern over the establishment of high-speed ferry service in the islands and suggested the Research Committee formulate a general opinion on the issue.

II. Kona Blue Water Farms meeting on the impact of proposed activities on resident spinner dolphins.

On May 17, 2002 a meeting was held at NELHA on the Big Island to discuss concerns regarding the impact activities proposed by Kona Blue Water Farms could have on a resident population of spinner dolphins.

Present at the meeting were: Neil Sims and Dale Sarver (Black Pearls, Inc.), John Corbin (Director, Hawaii Aquaculture Development Program), Randy Cates (Cates International, Inc.), Sara Peck (West Hawaii UH Seagrass Extension Service), Jan Ostman-Lind (Kula Nāi'a Wild Dolphin Research Foundation, Inc.), Jeff Leicher (Jack's Diving Locker), Porter Watson (TropicSea Video).

Invited but absent were: Sallie Beavers, Lisa Choquette (Dive Makai), Bill Freidl (CEROS), Marc Lammers (HIMB), Teri Leicher (Jack's Diving Locker), David Mattila and Jeffrey Walters, (Hawaii Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary - HIHWNMS), Paul Nachtigall (HIMB, Marine Mammal Research Program), Jim Passon, Caroline Stewart and David Tarnas (Malama Kai), Bill Walsh (Kona DAR).

A transcript of the meeting was emailed to participants and invitees. The main points made during the meeting are summarized below:

- a. Makako Bay, near to the proposed site, harbors large groups of resting spinner dolphins; the schools are not discrete, but are fluid and wide-ranging; the proposed farm is not directly in the path of the diurnal migration of the dolphins; the dolphins vary in school size and sites; rest areas appear to be located on an opportunistic basis.
- b. Fish pens appear to neither attract nor repel dolphins; spinner dolphins can readily adapt to new objects; static structures offer less intrusion than boats or divers; the pens will not inhibit dolphins ingress or egress to Makako Bay, as dolphins will, at most, have to swim 300 feet in any direction to get around cages; the mooring lines will not likely restrict the dolphins' movements; there is negligible risk of entanglement by spinner dolphins or other marine mammals in taut mesh or taut moorings.
- c. Jan Ostman expressed concern that the anchor lines would be in close proximity to the dolphins' resting area. He outlined the dolphins' usual resting area, which does not overlap with the proposed lease area. However, he showed two extensions of this resting area, which were areas where the dolphins sometimes moved back and forth while resting. One extended north and west out to overlap with the southwestern-most corner of the proposed lease area.
- d. There is language in the leasing law that allows the State to pull a permit or rescind the lease if there is some negative impact. The Federal NPDES permit is also renewable every 5 years. An Army Corps of Engineers permit is also required, which addresses concerns about navigation and marine mammals.
- e. The farm could not be moved to deeper waters because it would be unsafe for divers to maintain the anchor moorings. It would also run into the 240 ft depth contour - the "ono alley" - where the trollers work.
- f. Randy Cates, the operator of a similar farm along the Ewa coast of Oahu, indicated that no measurable negative impacts on dolphins have been documented at his site. Comment by Marc Lammers: No analytical data exist to evaluate this statement.

- g. Positive impacts noted at the Ewa site include: Cages act as FADs, providing habitat for schooling fish as well as turtles. Fishing has improved in the area near the farm.
- h. There is extensive monitoring of water quality at the Ewa site – each month 130 samples are collected from up to 1000 yards away. There has been almost 4 years of monitoring on this farm, and the water samples downstream from the cage are often cleaner than the samples upstream.

From the transcript provided it is not clear whether a consensus was reached regarding any impact the proposed farm would have on resident dolphins. The tone of the comments generally suggested that there was little reason to believe spinner dolphins would be adversely affected. For further details on the meeting contact Neil Sims at: neil@blackpearlsinc.com.

III. Oceanit Remote Sensing Program:

A proposal has been submitted to the Coastal Zone Management Office of Planning to conduct oceanographic testing in Mamala Bay off Sand Island, Oahu. Tests would involve the use of an acoustic modem transmitting at frequencies between 9 and 30 kHz at levels ranging from 180 to 190 dB re 1 μ Pa. The Conservation Committee has expressed concern over the project's potential impact on humpback whales. Preliminary comments by members of the Research Committee indicate additional concerns exist regarding the impact the project could have on resident spinner dolphins.

ATTACHMENT 7

FROM: BILL FREIDL, HONOLULU COUNTY REPRESENTATIVE

SUBJECT: OAHU COUNTY REPORT FOR APRIL 10, THROUGH MAY 31, 2002

EARTH DAY

Christine Brammer participated in Molokai Earth Day with Maui staff on April 19.

Christine Brammer and Carey Morishige (Marine Option Program intern) participated in Hilo Earth Day on April 24. This was the first year that the Sanctuary participated in this educational event, which draws approximately 3,000 visitors. The Sanctuary hosted a display and provided educational materials to teachers and the general public.

Christine Brammer and Kristina Elson (Marine Option Program intern) participated in Hickam Earth Day, which was held on April 26. This event targets students from Hickam Elementary and Nimitz Elementary as well as children that are home schooled on the Air Force Base.

E MALAMA I KE KAI

The Sanctuary hosted a booth at this event, which was open to students from the Punana Leo schools and their families. Also, the general public had access to the event since it was held at Bishop Museum. The event featured educational displays from various exhibitors as well as craft and food booths. There was also live musical entertainment. The Sanctuary has participated in this event for a few years now, but this was the first

year that it was held at Bishop Museum. The Sanctuary manned a booth at the event and provided an educational activity, which draws a large local group. We also had handout materials available. Staff that assisted with this activity were Joylynn Oliveira, Christine Brammer, Carey Morishige and Kristina Elson.

OCEAN COUNT

Oahu Sanctuary staff and interns have continued to work on the Ocean Count project.

- Data from all Ocean Count sites was received and forwarded to Daniela Maldini for review.
- Certificates were issued to all volunteers that participated on O'ahu and the Big Island.
- Pictures from each site were organized into albums
- Ocean Count documents were updated for next year

AIRPORT DISPLAY SHOWCASING SLOGAN WINNER

The winners of the Sanctuary slogan contest are now being featured in a display, which can be found in the interisland terminal.

SAC member Patty Miller, and O'ahu Sanctuary staff visited the students in Laura Fukumoto's 5th grade class at Aliamanu Elementary to build whale models for the display. They also assisted in the setup of the display at the airport.

MANAGEMENT PLAN MEETINGS

Staff members traveled to each island to hold public review meetings on the draft management plan.

Annie Reisewitz, management plan coordinator, synthesized the comments that were received and will be traveling to the mainland to work on the final document.

SAC

Amy Glester is now working in the O'ahu office as the SAC Coordinator. Amy and Christine have been working together to coordinate the SAC. A SAC Conservation Subcommittee meeting was held on May 28.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Christine Brammer began taking classes in Web Design to help her prepare for managing the Sanctuary's website. The classes will continue throughout the summer.

Sanctuary staff members attended the meetings of the Ocean Commission and also were hosts to a reception for the Commissioners, which was held at the Diamond Head Lighthouse. Bill Friedl submitted testimony to the Commissioners (see attachment)

Oahu Sanctuary staff members also attended the following meetings:

- A staff meeting between Dan Basta, Director of the National Marine Sanctuary System, and staff of the HIHWMNS, the Fagatele Bay NMS, and the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve
- A NOAA meeting, which was held at the National Weather Service office (Vice Admiral Lautenbaucher addressed the NOAA staff during this meeting)
- A staff meeting between HIHWNMS Staff and Dan Basta at the Maui Site. during his visit to Hawai'i. A meeting on the Maui facility was also held on the same day.

Attachment to Honolulu County Report
Friedl statement to the U. S. Commission on Ocean Policy / 14 May 2002

Mr. Chairman and distinguished commissioners, aloha. My name is Bill Friedl and I am the Chairman of the Hawaii Section of the Marine Technology Society (or MTS), an international, non-profit professional organization. I would like to reiterate some points made to the Commission on 13 November 2001, in Washington, DC by Andrew Clark, the President of MTS, and provide a perspective that I believe represents the technically based small businesses that comprise an important part of our ocean community in Hawaii. Such small, technology-driven businesses are important to Hawaii even as the industry continues to develop and emerge within the local economic mix. Furthermore, these companies are important agents for transition of technology from academic origins to military and commercial applications.

In his November statement, Dr. Clark emphasized the following needs:

- Support for new technologies that foster commerce in, on and under the oceans through an "Office of Ocean Technology" within NOAA;
- A commitment to systematically "refresh" technical marine capabilities and upgrade or replace facilities that support ocean activities;
- Development of an integrated ocean observing capability;
- Support for a baseline program to map the oceans, census their content and document the findings;
- A commitment to reliable and secure transmission of information on, through and over the sea; and finally
- A commitment to foster emerging technical fields with potential commercial applications, such as marine-based biotechnology or advanced undersea vehicles.

Furthermore, yesterday's testimony before this Commission presented numerous examples of issues that must be approached through technology. This litany ranged from fisheries and resource management issues to ocean monitoring and surveillance. Briefly put, technology is critical to ocean exploration, enforcement and education and small ocean businesses are important agents for developing and applying technology.

Hawaii has a robust and dynamic technology-based ocean community and world-class ocean oriented academic institutions. Furthermore, as Nainoa Thompson emphasized yesterday, Hawaii also has a unique attitude or view of the sea that this Commission would do well to take to heart. But Hawaii is 5 time zones removed from Washington, DC

and consequently, Hawaii-based capabilities are often overlooked when policies or programs are developed. Personally, I am somewhat surprised that the Commission's Science Advisory Panel does not include at least one member from the School of Ocean and Earth Sciences and Technology at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Clearly, the School's programs and personnel define its quality and world-class status. Similarly, the commercial ocean technology sector in Hawaii deserves your consideration as you develop recommendations for national ocean policy and programs.

Mr. Chairman, I believe the best way to assure that the talent and attitude of Hawaii's technology-based ocean community are part of the nation's ocean future is to assure that the nation's ocean development programs are open, competitive and dynamic. Anything less will be a disservice to the individuals and companies involved in ocean technology development in Hawaii and a loss to our nation as a whole. Thank you for this opportunity to address the Commission. Aloha.

William A. Friedl
Chairman, Hawaii Section
Marine Technology Society

Technical Director
National Defense Center of Excellence
For Research in Ocean Sciences (CEROS)
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ATTACHMENT 8

Kauai Report to the SAC (April – June 2002)
By Dr. Walter Haas
(new email address: lihue.vet@verizon.net)

Management Plan Review

The public meeting was held on May 3 at the Radisson Kauai Beach Resort in Lihue. The meeting was attended by slightly over 20 residents, including several high school students who offered very incisive comments. A few hotel guests dropped by to check things out. The Kauai office mailed approximately 300 meeting notices and reminders in the 2 weeks prior to the public meeting to supplement the 80 meeting notices that were mailed to Kauai addresses by the MPR Coordinator.

SAC Committee Meetings

Jean and I attended the conservation committee video conference but were late because the room was locked and we had to get the key.

CO2 Sequestration Public Meeting

I attended one of the public hearings on Kauai and presented personal testimony similar to the SAC's position letter but updated.

Education and Outreach

With the exception of the Management Plan Public Meeting in Lihue on May 3, the education and outreach activities of the Kauai office staff and volunteers have been focused on community events organized by other public and private organizations. We participated in 3 community events during May:

- **Children's Day at Lihue Hongwanji Preschool, Lihue** (May 5, event sponsored by Lihue Hongwanji Preschool). This ocean- and Children's Day-themed event exposed the sanctuary to a large family-oriented crowd that was heavily populated by teachers and their families. The sanctuary sponsored 2 activity stations staffed by Jean and volunteer Keri Souza and a Lihue Girl Scout troop. This was the first time the sanctuary was invited to participate in this event.
- **Mahelona Hospital Petting Zoo and More, Kapaa** (May 7, sponsored by Mahelona Hospital). 850 preschool and kindergarten from around the island participated in a half dozen activity stations within 2.5 hours. The sanctuary booth, staffed by Jean and volunteer Sheri Knapp, was swamped with avid "ocean magnet" makers who colored and took home a refrigerator magnet designed with an ocean theme and sanctuary website. Forty sanctuary educators packets were distributed to teachers and teacher aides. This was the first year the sanctuary was invited to participate in this event.
- **Easter Seals Fishing Tournament Weigh-In, Lihue** (May 19, sponsored by Kauai Easter Seals). Weigh-in activities included exhibits and kids activity stations. Jean and volunteers Weston and Keri Souza provided an ocean art station along with sanctuary handouts. Comments about the sanctuary were provided by fishermen. This was the fifth year the sanctuary has been invited to this event.

Kauai Sanctuary Office Provides Meeting Venue

The Lihue office is used occasionally for meetings by other agencies. As of this month, the office will be serving as the regular meeting site for DLNR's Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation citizen advisory committee meetings, held every other Tuesday evening.

Kauai Volunteers

This year's volunteers numbered 200, a 25% increase over last year. Most of the volunteers spent an average of 15 hours on sanctuary projects. During the height of the whale season, volunteers have put in as many as 40 hours of volunteer time in some weeks. With the exception of about a dozen, all received training on humpback whales and the sanctuary program. Volunteers included long-time residents, Brownie and Girl Scout troops, Kauai Community College students, part-time residents and visitors.

Kauai Community College Mentoring Program

Student presentations on May 2 capped off a semester-long mentoring program organized by KCC instructor Nancy Bushnell for her Hawaiian Environmental Science class. Four students signed up to be mentored by Jean and to study humpback whales. They participated in all Sanctuary Ocean Counts, with half of them serving as site leaders, and conducted independent research on the N-PAL Project. This is the second year that the sanctuary has been invited to participate in the mentoring program. Discussions are underway for continued participation next year. The students continue to volunteer in other sanctuary projects.

Other

Northwestern Hawaiian Islands—I attended the Kauai scoping meeting of the NWHI Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve on April 16 and provided written testimony. I also had a discussion with Reserve Manager Robert Smith regarding the meeting techniques used. Jean helped out with the small group discussions at the meeting.

Volunteer Leadership Training--Jean served as the on-island contact for the Network of Volunteer Leaders (NOVL) training on May 17. Jean also sponsored the attendance of volunteer Sheri Knapp to the workshop.

NMSP Catalyst Mini-Grant—\$100,000 in funding from headquarters was available for projects that involved collaboration between 2 or more sanctuaries. Jean served as the Hawaii coordinator for 3 of 5 funding proposals that were submitted in April to headquarters for consideration. Claire served as the coordinator for another of the funding proposals. Of the 5 proposals submitted by the sanctuaries, 3 were selected in May for funding. HIHWNMS is a participant in 2 of those 3 projects:

- Sanctuary Interpreter/ Naturalist Certification Program. A program to ensure that marine excursion vessels with Sanctuary destinations are staffed by naturalists/interpreters who are equipped with the best available information about the sanctuary program, the local sanctuary, and the sanctuary's resources, regulations, programs and issues. Sanctuaries involved: Stellwagen Bank, Channel Islands, Flower Garden Bank, Thunder Bay and Hawaiian Islands.
- Whaling to Watching. HIHWNMS and Stellwagen Bank NMS propose to develop a web-based curriculum.

Fagatele Bay NMS Education Coordinator—Jean hosted a visit by new ed. Coordinator Rosie Tavita. The day included visits to the sanctuary on the north shore, Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge and discussions on education and outreach, training, humpback whales and office operations.

ATTACHMENT 9

MAUI COUNTY REPORT

Richard McCarty

Maui County Representative

Education Center

As tourists season closes, the attendance at the Education Center has slipped. In April the visitor number was 573 with 90 school children. In May, we hosted over 388 visitors but unfortunately, several school visits were cancelled due to the lateness of the school year and busy teachers.

Lecture Series

April – “E Holo Mua – Kaho’olawe Marine Reserve” – 30 pax

May – “Status of Hawaii’s Coral Reefs: Should We Celebrate or Give Up?” - 60 pax

June – “Historical Changes and Future Beach Preservation Along West Maui and Kihei Shorelines

Jerry Stowell continues to host his weekly 45 Ton Talks on Tuesdays. As expected, these talks have been very popular. They are open to the public and touch on a variety of marine resources.

Part-time Marine Educator Joins Maui Site

Rhonda Van Wingerden has joined the Maui staff on a six-month contract to help with outreach activities in Maui County. Rhonda has been involved in marine education for the past six years. She is a Americorp alumni and has volunteered at the Maui site for the past 2 whale seasons.

Staff Secures Grants

- a). "Whaling to Watching" – The Stellwagon Bank NMS proposes to develop a web-based curriculum titled "Whaling to Watching." This two-year project will provide greater understanding and interpretation of our lone intertwined connection to the marine environment by demonstrating the evolution of human interaction with whales. Claire Cappelle and Jean Souza will take the lead on the project.
- b). Beach Restoration Grant Program – the Maui site has been awarded a \$5,000 grant from the Department of Public Works and Waste Management, County of Maui. The funding will be used to help prevent sand loss on the north side of the Kihei property. Staff is working with the County of Maui, Maui Botanical Gardens, U-H Sea Grant Program and community groups.

Blaineville's Beaked Whale Stranding

Date: Tuesday, April 23, 2002

Location: Kama`ole Beach Park I, Kihei, Maui, Hawai`i

Brief details:

- Beached itself approximately 8:45 a.m.
- Public and lifeguards tried to guide it back out to sea but were unsuccessful
- Dave Mattila, Research & Rescue Coordinator of the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary pronounced the time of death at 9:50 a.m.
- Whale was removed from site by heavy machinery at approximately 11:00 a.m.
- The carcass was transported to the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary (726 S. Kihei Rd., Kihei, Hawai`i)
- Necropsy was performed at Sanctuary site by Dr. Gregg Levine
- Head and specimens were taken by Dr. Levine for research purposes
- Remains were released out at sea on Wednesday, April 24, 2002 by the Division of Conservation and Research Enforcement
-



And then on the rest of our days

The Maui staff spent quite a bit of their schedule in early May assisting in presenting the management plan meetings.

Joylynn Oliveira attended a three day conference sponsored by the Native Hawaiian Education Association. The goal of the conference was to encourage Native Hawaiian Educators to learn about other on-going Native Hawaiian Programs.

On April 8, Joylynn, Claire and volunteer Rob Phillips responded to a sea turtle stranding call at Po'olenalena Beach Park in Makena. The search was difficult and the turtle was not found.

On April 9, the Sanctuary site had its last school trip on the Windjammer for the Whale Discovery 2002 program. 21 students and 2 teachers from Baldwin High attended. Joylynn Oliveira and Laureen, a sanctuary volunteer, represented the Sanctuary.

On April 11th - Joylynn Oliveira flew to O'ahu to attend the two meetings regarding creating a cultural poster in conjunction with the state. The first meeting was at U.H. Manoa to hear of how professors documented Native Hawaiian uses with past projects. The second meeting was with the State Department of Planning which is using its own information to create a poster for the Sanctuary.

April 13th - Sanctuary staff hosted an educational booth at the annual East Maui Taro Festival in Hana, Maui.

April 20th – Staff combined a classroom visit to Kamehameha Preschool in the morning with a booth at the annual Moloka'i Earth Day Celebration.

April 30 – a small memorial service was held on the grounds for sanctuary volunteer "Papa Jim" with staff, family and volunteers attending.

On Tuesday, May 7th, the Maui site hosted a meeting w/ Robb Gries, Abe Vinikoor and Dan Strandy from WASC; Carol Ciufolo, Office of Finance and Administration; Bob Williams, NMFS Southeastern Region Office; Chris Ostrom, NMS; Dick Gardner, Booz-Allen & Hamilton, Inc; and Naomi McIntosh and Claire Cappelle, HIHWNMS. The focus of the meeting was to complete the scrubbing process for the proposed multi-purpose building for the Kihei site.

Friday, May 17 – Vice Admiral Lautenbacher spent time at the Maui site for a few hours to tour the site, attend a briefing on the proposed new multi-purpose building, and visit with staff and SAC officers.

Thursday, May 23 – Maui site hosted Alan Neuschatz and Maureen Warren, Chief of Staff for the National Marine Sanctuary Program.

Wednesday, May 29th - Dan Basta, Director of the National Marine Sanctuary Program visited the Kihei site. He met with staff and volunteers and was also briefed on the Kihei Facility Project. (fyi -the new building).

On May 30, 2002 - 9:30 - 12 noon, Staff conducted a cultural workshop entitled "It's Kaukau Time!" as an opportunity for volunteers and staff of the Sanctuary as well as members of the Fishpond Association to share cultural seafood recipes. The object of the workshop was to integrate how the local cultures of Hawai'i made use of the Sanctuary's resources in their everyday life.

May 31, 2002 - 11 a.m., the king and queen of Maui's Aloha Week Court visited our site in full attire for a photo shoot using the fishpond and native plants as the background.

ATTACHMENT 10

06 June 2002

SAC Vessel Collisions Working Group

Report for the Twenty Seventh Meeting of the Sanctuary Advisory Council, 13 June 2002

Marc Lammers is proceeding with his survey and summary report on the likely scope of the problem in and around the HbW Sanctuary. WG action is pending until Marc's report is complete.

During a meeting at the NELHA facilities in Kailua-Kona on 30 May 2002, Sanctuary Program Manager Dan Basta reiterated his support for a whale-vessel interaction workshop with national scope. Naomi McIntosh was tasked to coordinate an effort with national staff and other sanctuary personnel to develop a proposal for such a workshop.

Bill Friedl

ATTACHMENT 11

June 12, 2002

re: Boater outreach program

Progress is beginning to start. Jeff Walters has volunteered some basic planning and materials that DLNR had begun but ran out of funding prior to completion of the project. Some very good ideas as to what might make "a prize value" to the handout so that people who receive it will tend to keep it and then, just maybe, read it. We are also being joined by John Reghi, Assistant special agent in charge at NMFS and possibly his chief enforcement officer, Paul Newman, as well. We are ready to brainstorm for ideas as to what sort of presentation makes people want to read the rules as we present them. The main goal is to enlist compliance through education, leaving the only enforcement requirement for those few jerks who willingly violate any rule they see as being "in the way."

The committee presently consists of Reg White, Greg Kaufman and the assistance volunteered by Jeff Walters and John Reghi. We will need the assistance of the Education Committee when it come to producing the document and we welcome any other input that might make this process go more smoothly and end up with a more attractive and interesting product.

I have tried several approaches to get the interest of the Coast Guard Auxiliary in passing out this information when it is produced, but I don't have a good feeling for their co-operation until we can show the product. There is great reluctance on their part to even answer my phone inquiries. I assume this is "gun shy" from the original request to act as an enforcement arm. I will persevere in this effort as I have a product outline to show and tell with. Any assistance from anyone else who already has the trust of anyone in the hierarchy over there is most welcome.

Reg White

ATTACHMENT 12

12 June 2002

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chair Teri Leicher and Members of the SAC Naturalist Training Working Group
SAC Members

FROM: Jean Souza, Kauaʻi Sanctuary Liaison

SUBJECT: Update on the Naturalist Certification Program

As we consider the possibilities of a Sanctuary Naturalist Training Program here in Hawaiʻi, there are a couple of things happening on the national front that will be of interest to you. This memo is intended to bring you up to date on those activities.

Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary (SBNMS)

For several years now, Stellwagen Bank NMS has been keenly interested in establishing a Sanctuary Interpreter/Naturalist Certification Program (SI/NP). The proposed program, as described to me by SBNMS Education Coordinator Anne Smrcina, would involve the following components:

- Training program available to professional naturalists
- Training program available to volunteer naturalists
- On-line curriculum
- Lectures by Sanctuary staff and collaborators (university, museums and other experts)
- Certification of professional naturalists
- Certification of volunteer naturalists
- Administration of different tests for various kinds of certification

This summer, portions of a sanctuary certification program dealing with training are expected to be implemented, with additional components incorporated in the months to come.

For your information, a copy of Stellwagen Bank's draft white paper on the Naturalist Training Program is attached.

National Certification Program

The Hawaii sanctuary is among seven sanctuaries that are exploring a sanctuary interpreter/naturalist certification program at this time. It is not surprising, therefore, that a certification program for all sanctuaries is being discussed. In an effort to promote that discussion and to explore the possibilities, a collaborative, multi-sanctuary grant proposal was submitted to headquarters in April. Two weeks ago, that proposal was approved for funding (Catalyst Mini-Grant Funds from headquarters). The project leader is Anne Smrcina (Stellwagen Bank NMS). The other participating sanctuaries are: Channel Islands, Flower Garden Bank, Thunder Bay, and us. Other interested sanctuaries are: Monterey Bay and Gulf of the Farallones.

Here are the details about the project and our role in it:

The Sanctuary Interpreter/Naturalist Certification Program—a program to ensure that marine excursion vessels with Sanctuary destinations are staffed by naturalists/interpreters who are equipped with the best available information about the sanctuary program, the local sanctuary, and that sanctuary's resources, regulations, programs and issues.

Justification-- Ecotourism is a growing business, and the Sanctuary sites are becoming increasingly popular as destinations for recreation and education. Tours promoting wildlife and non-living resources (shipwrecks) visit most Sanctuaries, however, the level of interpretation on each of these trips ranges from nearly non-existent to excellent. Some of these operations with interpreters/naturalists use professional guides, others rely only on volunteers or boat captains. Guaranteeing that visitors receive timely and correct information from these tour guides is the goal of this program. Through the training and certification of these individuals, the marine excursion vessels gain valuable expertise (whether from volunteers or better-informed employees), the interpreters gain additional marketable skills, and the Sanctuaries gain added exposure with correct messages.

Several Sanctuaries are presently training volunteers or are in the process of developing training programs for volunteers or professional interpreters. The need exists to establish national standards for this training such that visitors to the Sanctuary sites can be assured of expert levels of information at every site and consistent NMS messages. The naturalists/interpreters are a major avenue for dissemination of Sanctuary site and program information. It is imperative that the program and sites ensure that these individuals are provided with the most up-to-date news and technical information. Effective dissemination of content via the web will also allow participating Sanctuaries to expand their outreach to potential interpreters in distant locations. Basic content can also be used for other educational purposes, e.g., teacher training, high school and college classes, adult education. It is also imperative that the individual sites work with the various users to ensure acceptance and full support of the program. An integral part of the development of the protocols will be site sponsored workshops/meetings/communications with marine excursion operators, volunteers and/or professional naturalists/interpreters, and other associated individuals and organizations.

Formation of a National Certification Working Group—The Catalyst Mini-Grant Funds will be used to support an National Certification Working Group that would develop protocols for the program (training process, certification process, recertification process, decertification procedures, certification levels, value-added components for participants), core curriculum units that span all sites, the baseline knowledge and education level needed at each site, the design and production of patches and certificates for certified interpreters/naturalists, and travel for education coordinators and appropriate industry representatives to meet during program development sessions. Additional funding will be used for curriculum development of the program-wide content areas and to develop the design of the web-based training program and complementary print materials.

In subsequent phases, each sanctuary would develop their site-specific content and organize their training programs. The overall goal of the program is to produce a better informed naturalist/interpreter corps, who in turn can provide educational outreach to the general public. A better educated public will lead to benefits in the marine environment and a more aware constituency.

Formation and Meeting of the National Certification Working Group—A planning meeting of the national working group is being discussed for September 2002 in Cape Cod. The grant provides for the funding of one sanctuary staff and one industry/SAC member from Hawaii to attend.

WHITE PAPER ON THE NATURALIST TRAINING PROGRAM
for
Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary

Prepared by Anne Smrcina, Education Coordinator

White Paper on Naturalist Training Program

The Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary is revisiting the proposal to develop a Naturalist Training Program that would lead to a Sanctuary Certification of trained professionals employed by the whalewatch industry.

The idea to offer such a program grew out of a market research study that indicated that the general public would be much more receptive to whalewatch operations that traveled to a federally designated marine protected area and employed naturalists that were certified by the National Marine Sanctuary. The survey showed that many of the Boston-area respondents had previously been out on whalewatches but would be willing to go again. Analysis of the data implies that advertising the Sanctuary as a destination and maintaining a staff of naturalists that have undergone a Sanctuary training and certification program can only add to a company's market share.

The Sanctuary held a workshop several years ago to discuss the idea of a certification program and found that there was general consensus that such a program would be valuable. Questions arose as to the level of knowledge that would be required of a "certified" naturalist and how that certification would be bestowed. Some of the potential problems that were raised included: 1) the ability to get student/naturalists to classes/workshops in the off-season (when many of them relocate or have other jobs), and 2) the difficulty in scheduling such a program during the season when many of the whalewatch operations offer multiple trips a day and naturalists do not get free until quite late in the evening. Another issue was in the area of how people were tested -- if an in-class test was sufficient to certify a field naturalist, or if in-the-field observation would be required.

The Sanctuary believes that a Naturalist Training Program is valuable to both the naturalists (to increase their professional status) and to the Sanctuary (to assure that proper information is being relayed to the public as this is one of the major public gateways to the Sanctuary). The Sanctuary believes that such a program should be made available to the industry at little or no cost, and that benefits that accrue from such a program will aide both the industry, its passengers, and the Sanctuary. We see such a program as serving as a model for the nation in the development of a National Marine Sanctuary Certification Program.

HOW THE PROGRAM WOULD WORK

There would be two avenues to getting a Sanctuary certification -- either via a graduate level college course or via a web-based program.

College Course (to be offered in the spring semester):

Natural and Human History of the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary

This course would consist of 10 three-hour lectures and three field trips. Students would be introduced to the National Marine Sanctuary Program, the geology and geography of the Stellwagen Bank Sanctuary, whales, turtles, fish, phytoplankton and zooplankton, benthic species, seabirds, habitats, human use and threats to Sanctuary resources, issues in Sanctuary management, etc. These topics would be presented by experts in the

field, including Sanctuary staff and researchers undertaking projects within the boundaries of the Sanctuary. Field trips would be made that focused on whale, seabird, and other marine life identification in the wild. Individuals may take this course for credit (must be paid through the cooperating organization). Passing the course would not lead to a certification, however. Instead, class participants would have to pass a final exam at grade of 90% or better, plus demonstrate their ability to do field identifications under the observation of a Sanctuary naturalist (or a Sanctuary approved and contracted naturalist).

Intended participants include teachers interested in becoming naturalists for the summer season or to fulfill CEU requirements, college graduates interested in furthering their education in natural history, working naturalists interested in gaining graduate credits towards a degree program.

Web-based Course (to go on-line this spring)

Natural and Human History of the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary

This course would parallel the content that is offered in the college course, but would allow individuals anywhere in the world to access the material. Self-tests would be offered with each section. When the student/naturalist has completed the coursework, he or she then contacts the Sanctuary to arrange to take the Sanctuary certification test. This test will be offered by Sanctuary personnel at various locations and times around the region to ease commuting and scheduling. If the test-taker passes with a grade of 90% or better, he or she may then complete the observation portion of the certification. If the Sanctuary naturalist deems the applicant qualified, a certification will be granted. If the applicant does not pass the written test, they may retake the test at another time (up to three times in a year). If the observer does not approve the applicant, they may apply for another opportunity with another observer.

Intended participants include working naturalists interested in gaining the Sanctuary certification, and naturalists in remote locations interested in relocating to this region who cannot attend the college classes in person.

BENEFITS OF CERTIFICATION

Certification by the Sanctuary gives notice to the public that the naturalist is a trained professional with a level of knowledge accepted by the National Sanctuary. This certification will be granted for a three-year period, after which the individual will have to take an update test (to assure that they have kept abreast of changes in regulations, resource issues, and other pertinent topics). Candidates who pass the update test at a rate of 90% or better will receive a renewed certification. Those individuals who do not pass the test on the first try will be given three chances within that year to pass. If a certification lapses over more than a year, the individual would have to retake the course, test and observation.

Individuals who are granted certification by the Sanctuary will garner the following benefits:

- 1) A patch with the Sanctuary Program logo and the site certification (good for three years).
- 2) Inclusion of the naturalist's name on the Sanctuary's web page for certified naturalists.
- 3) Companies with certified naturalists will be highlighted on the Sanctuary's web page for whalewatch operations.
- 4) Invitations to attend special workshops and lectures on presentation skills, working with the public, Sanctuary and related research, ocean legislation, etc.
- 5) Annual Sanctuary Naturalist Appreciation Day program sponsored by the Sanctuary each fall.

- 6) Ability to compete in a mini-grants program for education funds that support Sanctuary-related education projects on their vessel(s); and
- 7) Other as-yet-unknown benefits (may be funded through the newly created National Marine Sanctuary Foundation).

COSTS

At this point projected costs to the naturalist for this program entail the outlay for participation in the college course (fee for credits). Those who wish to audit the course may have to pay a small fee for paperwork processing by the partnering organization hosting the course (e.g., Cape Cod Museum of Natural History).

The Sanctuary is working with the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History to pilot the college course this spring (and to start building the web materials based on the lectures and written materials prepared for the course). The individual lectures will be videotaped, so the course may be offered as a web-cast in the future, or individual lectures may be played elsewhere. The course itself may be duplicated with all the speakers (or a selection of speakers and videotapes) at other educational institutions in the region in the future (e.g., Bridgewater State College).

The web-based educational program will either be free of charge to all working naturalists or a small fee may be charged to their companies for the observation/evaluation. Those individuals who are not presently employed by whalewatch companies may apply to take the test and be observed, but may have to pay a fee for the test and observation. The program may be run out of the Sanctuary's non-profit Nat. Marine Sanctuary Foundation.

DEVELOPMENT OF CONTENT

The selection of topics to be included in the college course and web course will be made through an advisory working group that will include educators, naturalists, researchers, whalewatch company representatives, and the Sanctuary's staff. Tests will be developed through this group, and observations will be made by the Sanctuary's marine mammal specialist, and other selected testers approved by the working group.

Some of the web-based content will be written in-house, some will be contracted out, and some of it will be offered from linked sites or reprints of papers (with permission). Artwork, photographs and video clips will be integral pieces in this package.

Content in the National Marine Sanctuary section and the Stellwagen Bank Sanctuary designation/regulations section will be developed by Sanctuary staff with the assistance of the national program. Wherever possible, experts in the field will be invited to prepare the sections pertaining to their specialties.

ATTACHMENT 13

Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary 5-Year Management Plan Review

Changes made from draft to final revised management plan

- Included information about the public process to date including public meetings, comment period, comment prioritization by Staff and SAC in Introduction
- Cost estimates summary table 3 (pg 32); individual cost tables detailed for each action plan's strategies and activities
- Add discussion on annual operating plan and budget process
- Updated marine ecosystem section in Sanctuary description
- Removed list of harbors and ports and instead simply indicated all commercial harbors and ports are excluded from the Sanctuary

- Updated boundary description and regulations
- Accelerated process for inclusion of new species and included a flow chart to better detail the process
- Included the process to add additional programs (research, education, enforcement, management tools) to accommodate the inclusion of new species
- Added sentence on ocean user handbook/ workshop to NRP-4
- Updated State of Hawai'i's rule curtailing thrill crafts on Maui in NRP-4
- Included whale watching boats as a targeted user in NRP-4 activity E
- Mention of specific users targeted for education in EO action plan
- Added specific responsibility of research coordinator in regard to providing information on permit requirements in RM-2 Act A
- Removed RM-2 activity B and included this to Activity A
- Added a more detailed list of threats to RM-2 Activity A
- Included in CRE-2 Activity A the development of a cultural protocol to respond to stranding events
- Addition of Appendix 2 - 1999 Federal register notice of final rule
- Addition of Appendix 4 - Responses to public comment
- Small edits/typos/formatting changes

Timeline for the next steps of the review process

June 13 - PDF of final for SAC and staff will be provided
 June 13 to 18 - SAC and Staff review of the final revised plan
 June 19 to 21 - Incorporation of final edits based on SAC and Staff comments
 June 24 to July 24 - NOAA and State clearance
 August 5 - Final Revised Plan submitted to Governor

ATTACHMENT 14

SAC RESOLUTION EXPRESSING APPRCIEATION TO MR. DAVID MATTILA, FOR HIS EFFORTS AS SANCTURAY SCIENCE AND RESCUE COORDINATOR DURING THE 2001-2002 HUMPBACK WHALE SEASON

WHEREAS Mr. Mattila worked tirelessly as the Sanctuary's Science and Rescue Coordinator during the 2001-2002 humpback whale season;

WHEREAS Mr. Mattila facilitated the on-going development of an effective research program by assisting with the refinement and prioritization of the Sanctuary's research goals;

WHEREAS Mr. Mattila assisted in the establishment of an "on the water presence" for the Sanctuary by offering important technical advice and co-developing a comprehensive vessel policy for the Sanctuary's first vessel;

WHEREAS Mr. Mattila enhanced the Sanctuary's ability to respond to whales in distress by rapidly and effectively responding to at least 2 reported entangled whales and 3 reported abandoned calves;

WHEREAS Mr. Mattila improved communication among and between researchers and government management agencies by facilitating 2 meetings regarding the most appropriate scientific use and disposal of whale carcasses;

AND WHEREAS Ms. Mattila conducted research gathering evidence of previous entanglements and physiological stress levels of humpback whales in the Sanctuary;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Sanctuary Advisory Council expresses its deep appreciation for all the exceptional work Mr. Mattila has done for the Sanctuary in the areas of scientific research and marine mammal rescue.

ATTACHMENT 15

SAC SELECTION TALKING POINTS

The Sanctuary will begin seeking applicants for the following seats:

1. Business/Commerce
2. Citizen-At-Large
3. Commercial shipping
4. Conservation
5. Fishing
6. Native Hawaiian
7. Ocean Recreation
8. Tourism
9. Whale Watching

The schedule for the election process is as follows:

- A SAC Selection committee will be formed at today's SAC meeting to serve as a preliminary review panel by providing recommendations on applications to the Sanctuary Manager.
- Vacant seats will be advertised using print/media by June 30, 2002
- Applications will be mailed to the SAC Information Mailing List by June 30, 2002
- A pdf version of the SAC application and instructions will be posted on the Sanctuary website by June 30, 2002
- Anyone interested in applying will be able to contact the Oahu Sanctuary office to receive application materials through August 15, 2002
- Deadline for submission of applications will be August 15, 2002
- The SAC selection committee will receive copies of applications to begin selection process by August 19, 2002
- The SAC selection committee will provide their top three recommendations for each seat to the SAC coordinator by August 30, 2002
- Selection for the new members and alternates should be completed by Sept. 30, 2002
- All applicants will receive notification of selection or non-selection immediately following the completion process
- New members/alternates will begin serving at the November 14th SAC meeting

Application packets are available on the side table for anyone that is interested in taking copies with them. If you would like us to distribute applications to any particular individuals, please let Amy Glester know.